



Attorney Docket No. 1012774-000002

*JHW*  
Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of ) **MAIL STOP Amendment**  
Hiroaki Sano et al. )  
Application No.: 10/525,972 ) Group Art Unit: 3726  
Filed: February 28, 2005 ) Examiner: John C. Hong  
For: TUBE CONNECTING APPARATUS ) Confirmation No.: 3183  
AND TUBE CONNECTING )  
METHOD )

**AMENDMENT/REPLY TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Enclosed is a reply for the above-identified patent application.

- A Petition for Extension of Time is enclosed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Terminal Disclaimer(s) and the  \$ 65  \$ 130 fee per Disclaimer due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.20(d) are enclosed.
- Also enclosed is/are: \_\_\_\_\_
- Small entity status is hereby claimed.
- Applicant(s) requests continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and enclose the  \$ 405  \$ 810 fee due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e).
- Applicant(s) requests that any previously unentered after final amendments not be entered. Continued examination is requested based on the enclosed documents identified above.
- Applicant(s) previously submitted \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ for which continued examination is requested.
- Applicant(s) requests suspension of action by the Office until at least \_\_\_\_\_, which does not exceed three months from the filing of this RCE, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c). The required fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) is enclosed.
- A Request for Entry and Consideration of Submission under 37 C.F.R. § 1.129(a) (1809/2809) is also enclosed.

No additional claim fee is required.

An additional claim fee is required, and is calculated as shown below:

AMENDED CLAIMS					
	No. of Claims	Highest No. of Claims Previously Paid For	Extra Claims	Rate	Additional Fee
Total Claims	20	20	0	x \$ 50 (1202)	\$ 0
Independent Claims	2	3	0	x \$ 210 (1201)	\$ 0
<input type="checkbox"/> If Amendment adds multiple dependent claims, add \$ 370 (1203)					\$ 0
<b>Total Claim Amendment Fee</b>					\$ 0
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Status claimed - subtract 50% of Total Claim Amendment Fee					\$ 0
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL CLAIM FEE DUE FOR THIS AMENDMENT</b>					\$ 0

Charge \_\_\_\_\_ to Deposit Account No. 02-4800 for the fee due.

A check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed for the fee due.

Charge \_\_\_\_\_ to credit card for the fee due. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

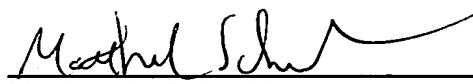
The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.20(d) and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in duplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date September 18, 2008

By:

  
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Attorney's Docket No. 1012774-000002

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METHOD )  
)

**AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated June 19, 2008, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows: